



CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER OF MINNESOTA

We humbly **request your support** of funding for Children's Law Center of Minnesota.

Children's Law Center of Minnesota's (CLC) mission is to promote and protect the legal rights and well-being of children and youth through legal advocacy, educational outreach, and policy reform.

For 30 years, our primary objective has been to improve and stabilize the lives of abused and neglected foster care youth, by providing high-quality, free legal representation to children and youth (ages 10-21) who are in foster care.

Funding Request:

CLC respectfully requests \$150,000 for the 2025 – 2026 biennium for a total funding amount of \$300,000 to be used for general operations at CLC; a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. This funding is an affordable way for Minnesota to provide legal representation to Minnesota's children 10+ years old who are in foster care.

Our Track Record of Success:

- Trained over 1,000 volunteer attorneys
- Represented over 4,100 abused and neglected children facing the child welfare system.
- Over 200 volunteer attorneys to provide pro-bono representation
- Provided direct legal representation to over 400 child clients in 2024
- Successfully won precedential Minnesota Court of Appeals case prohibiting counties from detaining non-delinquent foster care youth in locked detention facilities.
- Aim to represent 95% of our active clients to a permanency plan (e.g. adoption, transfer of custody to another relative, independent living, reunification).
- Provide ongoing continuing legal education.

Proposed Use of Funds:

- **General Operations:** This \$150,000 funding request would cover approximately 15-20% of our general operations budget for 2025.
- As a service non-profit, ≈90% of our expenses are in staff salaries and benefits for direct services provided.
- CLC's dedicated staff attorneys earn substantially less than the median annual attorney salary in Minnesota.
- With your financial support CLC can ensure children in foster care receive the quality legal representation they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration and for your past and future support of our mission to provide quality legal representation to children and youth in foster care.